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on 7,000 applications for oil and gas prospecting permits, on 249 applications for coal prospecting permits, on 78 applications for coal leases and 7,500 applications under the mineral-leasing laws. It also conducted an engineering investigation and prepared an exhaustive report on a proposed "superpower system"—a comprehensive system for the generation and distribution of electricity for the operation of railroads and manufacturing industries in the region between Boston and Washington. Special publications of the year were "Guides to desert watering places in Arizona and California," and a large relief map of the United States. Other published reports numbered 132, containing more than 10,000 pages, and 60 new topographic maps were engraved and printed. The Survey distributed 631,000 books and 740,000 maps, of which latter 550,000 were sold.

### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

A MOVEMENT has been started to raise a fund of \$2,000,000 to establish a medical school as a memorial to Major General William C. Gorgas. The present plan is that the fund be contributed by the nation and that the school be situated in Tuscaloosa, Ala., where General Gorgas lived as a boy. Dr. Seale Harris, of Birmingham, Ala., is chairman of the national committee.

FIRE of unknown origin has almost completely destroyed the chemical building of the Colorado State Agricultural College at Fort Collins, Colo. The loss on buildings and equipment is estimated at \$70,000.

THE board of curators of the University of Missouri has elected Dr. John Carleton Jones, president of the university to succeed Dr. A. Ross Hill who resigned several months ago to become connected with the American Red Cross. Dr. Jones has been vice president of the university since 1918 and dean of the college of arts and sciences.

JOHN H. MOFFETT has been appointed associate professor of metallurgy in the University of Minnesota.

R. S. LOWE, of the nitrate division, Ordnance Department, U. S. A., has been appointed dean of the department of chemical engineering, University of Cincinnati.

REVEREND DR. CHARLES WESLEY FLINT, president of Cornell College at Mount Vernon, Iowa, has been elected chancellor of Syracuse University in succession to Dr. James Roscoe Day.

DR. WALTER F. TITTMAN, formerly of the Bureau of Mines and later engaged in consulting practice at Pittsburgh, Pa., has been appointed head of the department of commercial engineering, Carnegie Institution of Technology.

DR. HAROLD DIEHL has been appointed head of the health service of the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, to succeed Dr. John Sundwall.

### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

#### COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION

SOME weeks ago it suddenly became apparent that the activities of the various antivivisection societies had finally reached a strength where they were able to menace effectively the health of the community. On a referendum vote in California they threatened all animal experimentation last year, and it was only with some difficulty that the measure was defeated. The Interstate Convention of Antivivisection Societies was held in Boston last month and at that time a committee was organized to undertake a campaign of sane, humane education to combat the propaganda of those who seek to prevent the making of vaccines and antitoxins, the testing of all such drugs as ergot and a general interference with medical methods of proved efficacy for the diagnosis, the prevention and cure of disease.

A committee of the Boston Society of Natural History was first appointed of which T. Barbour was chairman, to arrange for Mr. Ernest Harold Baynes to deliver two lectures, one upon a "Nature Study" subject, the other

entitled "The Truth about Vivisection." Mr. Baynes delivered the last lecture December 17 to a large and enthusiastic audience in Huntington Hall, Boston. It was an amplification of the article which he prepared for the *Woman's Home Companion*, July, 1921, and which at once aroused a howl of consternation from all of the antivivisection groups in the country. So much interest was aroused in the general question that the lecture committee of the Boston Society of Natural History reorganized itself into the Committee for the Protection of Animal Experimentation. An appeal for funds, signed by President Charles W. Eliot, Professor Richard P. Strong, M. D., Ernest Harold Baynes, Dr. John C. Phillips, Dr. Edward Wigglesworth, Dr. Townsend W. Thorndike and Dr. Thomas Barbour, brought a most encouraging response. The committee has published several statements, designed to instruct the community as to just what the results may be if the antivivisectionists succeed.

Cardinal O'Connell was one of the first to endorse the movement in a most inspiring letter which was followed by letters of endorsement from persons in all stations of life and representing many different interests, particularly Life Insurance Companies, Agricultural Interests and Charitable Organizations of many sorts.

The newspapers gave the work of the committee generous publicity and its efforts as a whole have become so successful that there is now a widely expressed desire that the work of the committee be carried forward by some permanent organization. The committee has studied carefully the organization and work of the Research Defense Society in England and it is probable that some organization of this sort will be founded.

To be really effective the Society should be national in its scope and have an able, active field secretary and should aim to protect the public from the mischievous activities, not only of the antivivisectionists, but the antivaccinationists, the medical freedomists, so-called, and all others who aim to lower the standards of medical education or jeopardize the public health in other ways.

A correspondence is invited with those in-

terested and our literature is available for free distribution.

EDWARD WIGGLESWORTH, PH. D.

J. C. PHILLIPS, M. D.

T. BARBOUR, PH. D.

FOR THE COMMITTEE

### POISONOUS SPIDERS

One of the best reviews of our knowledge of the poisonous properties of spiders is contained in Dr. Henry C. McCook's beautifully illustrated volumes, "American spiders and their spinning work." In Volume 1, page 274, he concludes that most of the cases of serious poison in the United States are caused by the bite of the widely distributed Lineweaver, *Lactrodectus mactans*, and the Saltigrade, *Phidippus morsitans*. He cites an instance of serious sickness resulting from the bite on a man's back of *Lactrodectus*. He also thinks it very probable that the large Mygales, commonly called tarantulas, on account of their large fangs and exceptionally large supply of poison, can inflict very serious bites.

He cites instances of spiders killing fish and birds, in one instance the victims being two sunfish about two inches long, which were promptly killed by the poison of a spider I saw at work. From my description Dr. McCook thought this was a *Dolomedes*.

In his third volume Dr. McCook quotes Professor Bentkau of Bonn, who suffered very serious pain and general swelling from being twice bitten by a *Chiraianthium nutrix* on the fingers.

Dr. McCook thinks it most likely that even the bites of the first two mentioned species are in most instances of small consequence and that the bites of the great majority of spiders are of little more consequence than those of mosquitoes and not nearly as serious as the stings of bees, hornets, etc.

In instances that have come under my direct observation of spiders biting human beings the results have been comparable with mosquito bites.

F. R. WELSH

### A LONG-LIVED WOODBORER

IN SCIENCE, Friday, August 5, 1921, H. E. Jaques, Iowa Wesleyan College, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, contributed a note, "A Long-lived Wood-